THE

Essex Journal AND Merrimack Packet:

Or, the *Massachusetts* and *New-Hampshire* General Advertiser.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, December 4, 1773. No. I. (Gratis.)

To the PUBLIC.

MANY respectable Gentlemen, Friends to LITERATURE, having expressed their earnest Desire that a PRINTING-OFFICE might be established in this populous Town, the Inhabitants in general being sensible of the great Want thereof, and the Patronage and Assistance they have kindly promised to give, has encouraged me to procure the necessary Apparatus for carrying on the PRINTING BUSINESS, and OPENING an OFFICE here; and animates me to hope that *every PUBLIC SPIRITED GENTLEMAN*, in this and the Places adjacent, will promote so USEFUL an Undertaking.

ISAIAH THOMAS.

THE great Utility of a PRINTING PRESS, is so well known, at this Day, by the Generality of Mankind, that it would be judged incongruous in US to point out its Advantages.

NEWS-PAPERS, are universally allowed to be of great Benefit to the Public, as they tend to INSTRUCT and ENTERTAIN their numerous Readers: By them we may learn the State of all Kingdoms and Nations, their Manners and Customs, and their various Agitations and Commotions; every striking Phænomenon in Nature, every new Invention in the Arts and Sciences, and Husbandry, can be registered, and the Affairs of our own Country inserted; and occasionally interspersed with judicious Remarks, and Reflections, that Kings and Statesmen may know the Condition and Minds of the People; Gentlemen may be amused, and Merchants, Tradesmen and Husbandmen, at their leisure Hours, be agreeably entertained; and undoubtedly learn something beneficial.

We, therefore, intend to publish a Weekly News Paper, and will spare no Pains or Cost, in our Power, to make it answer the Design of the Institution, and the Expectations of all those who may generously promote this Undertaking. And if the utmost CARE and ATTENTION, and the GREATEST IMPARTIALITY, will entitle the Publishers of a News Paper to Encouragement, we flatter ourselves, the Inhabitants of the *Massachusetts-Bay* and *New-Hampshire*, and more particularly those in this Town and County, will give THIS Paper a KIND Reception.

We beg Leave to lay before the PUBLIC, the following

PROPOSALS

For CONTINUING

The ESSEX JOURNAL,

AND

MERRIMACK PACKET;

OR THE

Massachusetts and *New-Hampshire*

GENERAL ADVERTISER.

CONDITIONS.

I. The ESSEX JOURNAL, and MERRIMACK PACKET, &c. to be printed on good Paper, manufactured in this Province, with a fair Type; each Number to contain four Pages, Folio, equal in Size to the Boston-News-Papers.

II. The Publication will be regularly every SATURDAY, unless some other Day should be thought more agreeable and advantageous to the Subscribers.

III. The Price to be *Six Shillings* and *Eight Pence*, Lawful Money, *per Annum*, (exclusive of Postage) which is as cheap as any News-Paper in the four Quarters of the Globe.

IV. *Three Shillings* and *Four Pence* to be paid on subscribing, or on the Delivery of the second Number, which is always customary, besides being *Requisite*, to enable the Publishers to prosecute their Plan, to the Satisfaction of their Readers, and Credit to themselves.

V. Literary Productions, tending to instruct or entertain, will be received with Gratitude and published with Speed.

VI. ADVERTISEMENTS, being of the utmost Service to the trading and commercial Part of the Community, will be inserted in a neat and conspicuous Manner, at the most reasonable Prices.

VII. Those Subscribers in NEWBURY-PORT, will be served with their Papers immediately after they are published, and those in the neighbouring Towns, and at a greater Distance, by the first Opportunity.

I. THOMAS, one of the Publishers of *this* Paper, being also the Publisher of one of the Boston, THURSDAY News-Papers, has long since settled a Correspondence in Great-Britain and America, in Order that he might be supplied with the most early and authentic Intelligence, which he now has by every Opportunity; and has requested his Correspondents to send him an additional Number of News-Papers, Magazines, &c. that The ESSEX JOURNAL, and MERRIMACK PACKET; or the MASSACHUSETTS and NEW-HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ADVERTISER, may have all the Advantages that other periodical Publications have; and we can assure the Public, that as said THOMAS resides in Boston, and it being his DUTY to furnish himself with the freshest and most important Intelligence, for his Paper there, as well as this, we shall be able to compile Matter much more authentic than otherwise, and give it to the Public near as soon as it can possibly be published in Boston, if our Day of Publication should be on SATURDAY.

As the Boston Thursday Papers, have the same Advantages for News, &c. as the Monday Papers, both from the Arrival of Ships, and the regular Posts, they certainly contain as fresh Advices. It is well known, that the News-Papers to the Eastward must be chiefly supplied from the Boston Papers. The Essex Gazette, published by Messrs. Halls, for whom we have the greatest Friendship, and the New-Hampshire Gazette, are supplied from the Monday Papers, and must be so, according to their Days of Publication, consequently the Intelligence in the Thursday Papers of the Week before, cannot be communicated to the Public through those Channels untill it is near a Week old. Therefore, in Order that the Public may be supplied, through THIS Channel with fresh and authentic Advices, we humbly beg Leave to recommend SATURDAY for a Day of Publication, if our Readers would choose to have the most early Intelligence; as I. THOMAS can send most of the News prepared for the Thursday Papers, to the Printing-Office in Newbury-Port, by the Newbury Stage, early on Thursday Morning, before it is published in Boston, we shall be able on Saturday Mornings, to give the Public, such Articles of Intelligence as have not had THREE Editions, which must be the Case if we publish on Wednesday, the Day thought by some to be best, for being published in Boston on Monday, is *one* Edition, in Salem on Tuesday is a *second* Edition, and in Winter Time, by Reason of the Days being short and bad Travelling, we shall not be able, very often, to publish the THIRD Edition until Thursday, and certainly no great Credit could accrue to us, nor Satisfaction to our Readers, from a STALE *Publication*. Whereas, on the contrary, in our humble Opinion, by publishing on Saturday, we shall always be able to give our Readers something new and entertaining.

Another Advantage arising from a Saturday's Publication is as follows, viz. Many Gentlemen are concerned in the Trade to the West-Indies, and much of the New-Hampshire Trade being there, and their Gazette published on Friday Morning, we shall the next Day be able to publish all the material Articles, from said Paper, (whenever there should be any such) in the Essex Journal, &c.

We only suggest this, as thinking it to the Benefit of all who chuse to become our Encouragers: We have no View, exclusive of that, for a particular Day of Publication; but knowing the Channels from whence Intelligence will come, we thought ourselves in Duty bound, to inform the Public what Day, we think will be most beneficial to *them*. Should Wednesday, or any other Day, be still most approved of, we shall most cheerfully use our utmost Endeavours, to make the Essex Journal, &c. as useful and agreeable as possible.

When political Disputes run high, and our Readers are desirous of perusing the Pieces in the Boston or other Papers, they may depend on having them inserted, *on both Sides the Question*, with the greatest *Impartiality*; and it shall be our constant Care to omit every Thing appearing disgustful or scurrilous, as it shall be to publish that which may be satisfactory; it being our earnest Wish to merit the Approbation of ALL honest Men, whatever religious or political Principles they may entertain.

We beg Leave to request the ASSISTANCE, of the Learned and Curious for our Paper, and of the Public in general, in promoting the Printing Business, having been at great Expence in purchasing Utensils and opening the Office. Trusting to the Candour and Generosity of the Public, whose Favours we will strenuously endeavour to deserve, we subscribe ourselves, with the greatest Respect, the Public's most obedient, humble Servants,

ISAIAH THOMAS,
HENRY W. TINGES.

Printing-Office, Newbury-Port, Dec. 3d, 1773.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the ROYAL AMERICAN MAGAZINE, which will speedily be published by I. THOMAS, in Boston, are taken in at the Printing-Office.